



Jefferson County Farmland Preservation Plan



To: Jefferson County Farmland Preservation Plan Steering Committee

From: Mark Roffers and Jessica Schmiedicke, planning consultants

Date: May 24, 2010

Re: June 3rd Meeting Materials

In preparation for our first Steering Committee meeting on June 3rd, we would like to provide an overview of the key agenda items and desired outcomes in order to maximize our time together. Please see the following attached documents for more information:

- Public Participation Plan, including Workplan Summary and Timeline
- Current Farmland Preservation Planning and Zoning Approach
- Preliminary Assessment of Working Lands Initiative's Effect on Jefferson County's Program
- Current Program and Different Policy Refinement Options (with City of Brookfield graphic for comparison purposes)

3. Project Purpose and Goals

The purpose of this project is to prepare an updated Farmland Preservation Plan and zoning district(s) to meet the requirements of the new Working Lands law. We will be exploring the degree to which current farmland preservation planning and zoning policies should be adjusted, acknowledging and integrating other farmland preservation efforts that have taken place since the adoption of the 1999 Plan. At their March meeting, the Zoning and Planning Commission confirmed that the County wants to stay in the State program and have a certified farmland preservation zoning district. The County also wants to keep all 16 towns under County zoning.

Participants should be prepared to share other major goals that they would like to discuss.

4. Process Overview

Our process is divided into two parts (see Public Participation Plan, including Workplan Summary and Timeline). In 2010 we will be focused on understanding the implications of the state's new farmland preservation law, developing different County farmland preservation policy refinement options for consideration, evaluating those options in a public setting, and selecting a preferred farmland preservation policy refinement approach from among the options. Then in 2011 we will focus on developing the plan and advising ordinance changes necessary to implement the preferred policy refinement approach determined in Part A. Our goal is to deliver the Farmland Preservation Plan to

DATCP by late Spring 2011 and the Farmland Preservation zoning ordinance in Summer 2011.

5. Review Policy Refinement Options

The key task in the first part of this process is to develop different farmland preservation policy refinement options for consideration. The attached draft matrix entitled “Current Program and Different Policy Refinement Options” is compilation of these options. The first column is a series of issues related to farmland preservation planning and zoning. The second column describes the County’s current policy toward that issue. Columns three, four, and five describe three policy variations.

At our meeting on June 3rd, we will review this matrix with the Steering Committee and discuss any revisions that may be necessary to communicate other policy options. This matrix, and information on potential impacts of the different options, will be used to prepare graphics for the Town quadrant meetings (see attached City of Brookfield graphic) to allow the public and local officials to provide input on the different options.

6. Town Quadrant Meetings

Town participation is a critical part of this planning process. The County plans to host four identical meetings, one in each quadrant of the County to present and obtain feedback on the policy refinement options. We will be discussing possible dates and venues for these events at our meeting.